

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A print control method for controlling a printing apparatus to print, comprising:

a saving step of saving data to be printed in a  
5 storage unit together with the designated number of sets of copies;

a discrimination step of discriminating if a print instruction is a test print instruction;

a change step of changing the number of sets of  
10 copies to 1 when the print instruction is the test print instruction; and

an output step of outputting the data saved in the storage unit to the printing apparatus together with the number of sets of copies in response to the  
15 print instruction.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a delete step of deleting the data output in the output step from the storage unit when the print instruction is not the test print instruction.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of decreasing the number of sets of copies output in a test print process from the designated number of sets of copies, when the print instruction is the test print instruction.

25 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the data stored in the storage unit is intermediate data before

being converted into a format to be output to the printing apparatus, and said method further comprises the change step of changing a setup associated with the data saved in the storage unit after the data is output  
5 in the output step, when the print instruction is the test print instruction.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising a change step of changing a setup associated with the data saved in the storage unit after the data  
10 is output in the output step, when the print instruction is the test print instruction, and the step of resetting the designated number of sets of copies to an original value when the setup has been changed in the change step.

15 6. A print control apparatus for controlling a printing apparatus to print, comprising:

a spooler that saves data to be printed together with the designated number of sets of copies; and

a spool file manager that checks if a print  
20 instruction is a test print instruction, that changes the number of sets of copies to 1 when the print instruction is the test print instruction, and outputs the data saved in the spooler to the printing apparatus together with the number of sets of copies to be  
25 printed in response to the print instruction.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the print instruction is not the test print instruction, said spool file manager deletes the output data from said spooler.

5 8. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the print instruction is not the test print instruction, said spool file manager decreases the number of sets of copies output in a test print process from the designated number of sets of copies after said spool  
10 file manager outputs the data.

9. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the data stored in said spooler is intermediate data before being converted into a format to be output to the printing apparatus, and when the print instruction is  
15 the test print instruction, said spool file manager changes a setup associated with the data saved in said spooler after said spool file manager outputs the data.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said spool file manager changes the number of sets of copies  
20 associated with the data saved in said spooler after said spool file manager outputs the data when the print instruction is the test print instruction, and resets the number of sets of copies to the designated number of sets of copies when the print instruction is not the  
25 test print instruction and when the number of sets of copies has been changed.

11. A print system which is constructed by connecting a print control apparatus of claim 6 and a printing apparatus and prints based on data output from output step of said print control apparatus.

- 5 12. A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program for making a computer to execute a print control method for controlling a printing apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

10 saving data to be printed together with the designated number of sets of copies;

discriminating if a print instruction is a test print instruction;

changing the number of sets of copies to 1 when the print instruction is the test print instruction;

- 15 and

outputting the data saved in said saving step to the printing apparatus together with the number of sets of copies in response to the print instruction.

- 20 13. The medium according to claim 12, wherein said method further comprises a step of deleting the data output by said output step from said saving step when the print instruction is not the test print instruction.

14. The medium according to claim 12, wherein said method further comprises a step of decreasing the  
25 number of sets of copies output in a test print process

from the designated number of sets of copies, when the print instruction is the test print instruction.

15. The medium according to claim 12, wherein the data stored in said saving step is intermediate data before being converted into a format to be output to the printing apparatus, and said method further comprises a step of changing a setup associated with the data saved in said saving step after said outputting step outputs the data, when the print

instruction is the test print instruction.

16. The medium according to claim 15, wherein said method further comprises a step of changing a setup associated with the data saved in said saving step after said outputting step outputs the data, when the print instruction is the test print instruction, and a step of resetting the designated number of sets of copies to an original value when the setup has been changed in said changing step.

17. A computer program for making a computer to execute a print control method for controlling a printing apparatus, said program comprising the processing steps of:

saving data to be printed together with the designated number of sets of copies;

discriminating if a print instruction is a test print instruction;

changing the number of sets of copies to 1 when  
the print instruction is the test print instruction;  
and

outputting the data saved in said saving step to  
5 the printing apparatus together with the number of sets  
of copies in response to the print instruction.

18. The program according to claim 17, wherein said  
program further comprises a processing step of deleting  
the data output by said output step from said saving  
10 step when the print instruction is not the test print  
instruction.

19. The program according to claim 17, wherein said  
program further comprises a processing step of  
decreasing the number of sets of copies output in a  
15 test print process from the designated number of sets  
of copies, when the print instruction is the test print  
instruction.

20. The program according to claim 17, wherein the  
data stored in said saving step is intermediate data  
20 before being converted into a format to be output to  
the printing apparatus, and said program further  
comprises a processing step of changing a setup  
associated with the data saved in said saving step  
after said outputting step outputs the data, when the  
25 print instruction is the test print instruction.

21. The program according to claim 20, wherein said  
program further comprises a processing step of changing  
a setup associated with the data saved in said saving  
step after said outputting step outputs the data, when  
5 the print instruction is the test print instruction,  
and a step of resetting the designated number of sets  
of copies to an original value when the setup has been  
changed in said changing step.